

POLICY AND CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, April 6, 2015

Oliver Administration Building

Present

Subcommittee: Erin Schofield, Chair; John Saviano and Lynn Wainwright

School Committee, Administration & Guests: John Bento, Diana Campbell, Karen Lynch, Mario Andrade, Jen Copeland, Paul Morris, Don Rebello, Gerard Spence, Brian Chidester, Kirsten DiChiappari, Daryl Gould, Lisa LaBollita, Adam Ramos, Tracy Ramos and Steve St. Angelo

Meeting called to order by Erin S. at 6:09 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: John S. motioned to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 meeting; Lynn W. seconded.

Discussion

Lynn W. alerted the secretary to the School Committee of a minor correction which needed to be made to the March 2, 2015 meeting minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

Erin S. stated, for the record, that the order of business would be modified to accommodate guests in attendance.

Junior Prom Early Dismissal Procedure

Lynn W. requested an update regarding the success of last year's implementation of the Junior Prom Early Dismissal Procedure.

Don R. responded that last year the students made good use of the policy with 100 students requesting early dismissal on the day of the prom. Don R. stated that the administrators are comfortable with providing this allowance as an incentive to motivate students in a positive way, especially in the area of punctuality.

Lynn W. asked how a determination is made of whether a student has met the Junior Prom Early Dismissal Procedure criteria.

Don R. responded that there are records which track student tardiness and attendance. Students are encouraged to complete prom permission slips in a timely manner for the purpose of screening. Don R. stated that he would not, however, recommend a deadline for permission slip submission.

John S. wondered whether the Junior Prom Early Dismissal

Procedure should be opened up to all students attending both the junior and senior proms, not just those in the Junior class. Don R. responded that he felt it was a good idea to have equality across the grades. Mario A. added that opening up the prom early dismissal privilege to all students attending either the Junior or Senior Prom will encourage punctuality across the board creating a positive culture.

Based on the above discussion, recommended changes to the Junior Prom Early Dismissal Procedure were noted.

MOTION: Lynn W. made a motion to accept the changes made to the Junior Prom Early Dismissal Procedure to be included in the MHHS Handbook beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year; John S. seconded.

Discussion

Don R. stated that he will revise the Junior Prom Early Dismissal Procedure per the changes noted and send to the Superintendent for approval.

The motion passed unanimously.

National Honor Society

Don R. distributed three possible Honor Society student scenarios:

- 1. Student eligible for BWRSD NHS, but NOT Rhode Island Honor Society**
- 2. Student eligible for Rhode Island Honor Society, but NOT BWRSD NHS**
- 3. Student eligible for both the BWRSD NHS and the Rhode Island Honor Society.**

A discussion ensued on the various criteria required for the above honor societies. Examples of the student application for BWRSD NHS were distributed. Differing opinions on the criteria were also discussed.

Lynn W. made several suggestions regarding changes she would like to see made to the requirements for induction into the BWRSD National Honor Society. She also suggested making the NHS broader to include more grade levels. Don R. responded that the advisory board for BWRSD National Honor Society would be happy to entertain any suggestions. He added that it is always good to re-evaluate programs.

Lynn W. will seek input from fellow School Committee members and present suggestions for changes to the current NHS criteria at the next BWRSD NHS advisory board meeting.

Erin Schofield stated, for the record, that the Bring Your Own Device Policy will be tabled to another meeting. Paul Morris, Don Rebello

and Jen Copeland will be invited again at that time.

Bidding Requirements Policy (DJC)

Mario A. described the minor change made to the Bidding Requirements Policy (DJC) requested by the Budget/Facilities Subcommittee for approval.

MOTION: John S. made a motion to move the Bidding Requirements Policy (DJC) to the full School Committee for a first reading; seconded by Lynn W. The motion passed unanimously.

Comprehensive Assessment System Policy (IKAC) - PARCC

Mario A. stated that no action would be taken on the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy this evening. In an effort to “slow down” the process, Mario A. stated that forums regarding the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy will be scheduled to discuss the “why?” behind the assessment from the District’s perspective to impart a better understanding of the system.

Mario A. discussed the following essential questions as they pertain to the BWRSD:

1. What do we want all students to know and be able to do?
2. How are we going to measure it?
3. What are we going to do with the data?
4. How do we get there?

The following questions about PARCC testing were asked by guests in attendance:

- What types of tests are administered for the purposes of assessment?**
- Why doesn't the policy allow for families to opt out?**
- What will the student report look like based on testing?**

(John B. left at 7:28 p.m.)

- Do you see the current PARCC Common Core regime as a step in terms of developing stability and improving overall education and if so why?**
- If the PARCC test isn't mandated by the State of Rhode Island, why is it mandated to BWRSD students?**
- When will the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy be implemented?**

The above questions were discussed at length with answers provided.

Tracy Ramos requested that the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee consider including an opt-out provision as part of the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy. She also asked that the Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee review Tiverton schools comprehensive

PARCC Policy which includes a provision for students to opt out.

Erin S. shared her reservations about “requiring” student participation stating it seems premature to make a promise that the data obtained from PARCC testing will help to improve student proficiency, when the PARCC results have not been realized yet.

Mario A. discussed how assessment data is used toward student proficiency and the importance of continuous improvement.

Mario A. clarified that the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy is a philosophical policy not a PARCC policy.

Erin S. stated that she will work with Mario A. to schedule forums to discuss the Comprehensive Assessment System Policy further. Mario A. added that it is important to have equal representation on both sides of the PARCC debate present at the forums.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: John S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.; seconded by Lynn W. The motion passed unanimously.

/kd